



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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San Diego Public Library to Host Book Discussion Series: “Reconceptualizing Blackness: The Black Arts Movement and Beyond”

SAN DIEGO – As part of its recognition of Black History Month, the City of San Diego Public Library will host a three-book discussion series entitled “Reconceptualizing Blackness: The Black Arts Movement and Beyond.” Camille Forbes, Ph.D., a professor of African American Literature at UCSD, will facilitate these free discussions at 6:30 p.m. in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E St., in downtown San Diego, on the following dates:

- Feb. 8: “The Dutchman” by LeRoi Jones (Amiri Baraka),
- Feb. 22: “Funnyhouse” of a Negro by Adrienne Kennedy,
- March 8: “The Bluest Eye” by Toni Morrison.

The Black Arts or Black Aesthetic Movement was the period of artistic and literary development among black Americans spanning the 1960s and early 1970s. Based on the cultural politics of Black Nationalism, it sought to create a populist art form to promote the idea of black separatism, viewing the artist as an activist responsible for the formation of racially separate publishing houses, theater troupes and study groups. The literature of this epoch addressed such issues as interracial tension, sociopolitical awareness, and the significance of African history and culture to blacks in the United States. Notable writers of the movement include Alex Haley, Eldridge Cleaver, Angela Davis, Toni Morrison, Ishmael Reed, Ntozake Shange, Sonia Sanchez, Alice Walker and June Jordan.

Participants who would like to take advantage of this unique opportunity to read and discuss the literature of the era which directly followed the Harlem Renaissance and need copies of the books may pick them up in the Literature Section of the Central Library, or call 619-236-5816 to have copies sent to a San Diego Public Library branch.

Funding for “Reconceptualizing Blackness: the Black Arts Movement and Beyond” was provided by the California Center for the Book, an affiliate of the Library of Congress.

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